



Pine Creek Prescribed Fire

Beaver Ranger District, Fishlake National Forest



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Planned Date: Fall 2015

Location: On the west side of The Beaver Ranger District, North of Beaver approximately 20 miles in the Pine Creek drainage. The area being targeted is the Pine Creek pasture between the northern edge of the Pine Creek drainage and south ward to the ridge running over Witter Hill. N38°29'06.49" By W112°32'29.28"

Legal Description: Township 27 South, Range 6 West, Sections 3-5, 8-10.

Project Description:

Starting fall, 2015 the Beaver Ranger District hopes to begin implementing this prescribed fire project by burning approximately 500 acres.

The overlying objective is to reduce fuel loadings in this area. The area consists of a mixture of Gamble Oak, Mixed Conifer, and Aspen fuel types. Fire exclusion over time in this area has left abundant dead and down fuels increasing the risk of a high severity wildfire. Objectives managers have for the burn are to return fire to its natural role on the landscape to maintain a diverse mosaic pattern of vegetation thus reducing the fuel loading in the area, increase herbaceous forage production for wildlife, improve range habitat. Past prescribed burn projects with similar vegetation composition within the Fishlake National Forest have shown to improve the health and vigor of desirable vegetative species. Burning in this area will occur in the spring and fall with timeframes varying depending on conditions and results. This area could be treated in as short as 1 year or may take several years. A mosaic pattern is desired with a diverse age class of vegetation. This will be achieved by using the changes in vegetation and topography to influence fire behavior. Ignition techniques that will be used in this unit consist of drip torches, and other hand devices that can easily be controlled. All prescribed fire prescriptions will be met, including the requirements by the State Department of Air Quality. Prescribed fire personnel (holding forces, engines) will remain on-site until the area is safe for the public and the risk of escape has passed. Public notifications, press releases and road signs will be used to inform the public of status of the project.

